

The United States Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration has
Completed a Five-Year Review of the Building 834 Operable Unit at Lawrence Livermore
National Laboratory's Site 300

The U.S. Department of Energy /National Nuclear Security Administration has completed the third Five-Year Review of its environmental cleanup of the Building 834 Operable Unit at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Site 300.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

Superfund law requires that the protectiveness of cleanup actions be evaluated every five years when contaminants remain at the site above levels that allow unrestricted access. The purpose of the Five-Year Review is to evaluate the progress of the cleanup remedy toward achieving the Site's cleanup objectives, and whether the remedy continues to be protective of human health and the environment.

The Five-Year Review report summarizes the nature and extent of contamination and describes the U.S. Department of Energy's progress in cleaning up the Building 834 Operable Unit. The final Five-Year Review report for the Building 834 Operable Unit is now available to the public at the Laboratory's Environmental Repository in the Tracy Public Library, 20 East Eaton Avenue, Tracy, CA 95377, [telephone (209) 835-2221]; the Laboratory Discovery Center, Greenville Road at East Gate Drive, Livermore, CA 94551, [telephone (925) 422-4599]; and online at <http://www-envirinfo.llnl.gov/>.

SITE HISTORY

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory's Site 300 is a U.S. Department of Energy experimental test facility operated by Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC. Site 300 is used for the research, development, and testing of high explosive materials. Site 300 is located in the Altamont Hills between Livermore and Tracy, California. Site 300 was placed on the National Priorities List in 1992. A Site-Wide Record of Decision signed in 2008 established cleanup remedies and cleanup standards for the Building 834 Operable Unit. Previous Five-Year Reviews were completed in 2002 and 2007. Facilities at the Building 834 Complex have been in use since the late 1950s for conducting experiments on weapon components. From 1962 to 1978, intermittent spills and piping leaks resulted in contamination of the environment with volatile organic compounds and silicone oils. Nitrate is also present in ground water.

CLEANUP OBJECTIVE

The selected remedy for the Building 834 Operable Unit includes: (1) monitoring ground water to evaluate the effectiveness of the remedy in achieving cleanup standards, and to ensure there is no impact to downgradient water-supply wells; (2) risk and hazard management to prevent onsite worker exposure to volatile organic compounds volatilizing from subsurface soil into indoor air at Building 834D until risk and hazard is mitigated through active remediation; and (3) extracting and treating volatile organic compounds in soil vapor and ground water, and nitrate in ground water to mitigate unacceptable volatile organic compound inhalation risk for onsite workers, prevent further impacts to ground water and offsite plume migration, and reduce contaminant concentrations in soil and ground water to cleanup.

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW RESULTS

The remedy at the Building 834 Operable Unit is protective of human health and the environment for the site's industrial land use. The cleanup standards for Building 834 Operable Unit ground water are drinking water standards. Because drinking water standards do not differentiate between industrial and residential use, the ground water cleanup remedy will be protective under any land use scenario upon completion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For further information, please contact:

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